

## Peace Corps

## § 307.735-310

employment in any country or countries to which he or she is assigned or detailed in his or her own name or through the agency of any other person.

(2) A U.S. citizen employee shall not invest in real estate or mortgages on properties located in his or her country of assignment. The purchase of a house and land for personal occupancy is not considered a violation of this subparagraph.

(3) A U.S. citizen employee shall not invest money in bonds, shares, or stocks of commercial concerns headquartered in his or her country of assignment or conducting a substantial portion of business in such country. Such investments, if made prior to knowledge of assignment or detail to such country or countries, may be retained during such assignment or detail.

(4) A U.S. citizen employee shall not sell or dispose of personal property, including automobiles, at prices producing profits which result primarily from import privileges derived from his or her official status as an employee for the U.S. Government.

### § 307.735-309 Information.

(a) *Release of information to the press.*

(1) Regular or special employees shall not withhold information from the press or public unless that information is classified or administratively controlled (limited official use). All responses to requests for information from the press should be referred to the Director of Public Affairs who will be responsible for all releases. Regular and special employees should be certain that information given to the press and public is accurate and complete.

(2) Any questions as to the classification or administrative control of information should be referred to the DAEO.

(3) No regular or special employee may record by electronic or other device any telephone or other conversation, or listen in on any telephone conversation without the consent of all parties thereto.

(b) *Disclosure and misuse of inside information.* No employee may, directly or indirectly, disclose or use for his or

her own benefit, or for the private benefit of another, inside information as described in paragraph (c) of this section. The use of such information by an employee is restricted to the proper performance of his or her official duties. The disclosure of such information is restricted to official Peace Corps channels unless disclosure is authorized by the Director, the Deputy Director, the General Counsel, or an Associate Director of Peace Corps. In particular, no employee may:

(1) Engage in, directly or indirectly, a financial transaction as a result of or primarily relying on such information; or

(2) Publish any book or article, or deliver any speech or lecture, based on or using such information.

(c) *Definition.* The term *inside information* as used in this section means, generally, information obtained under Government authority which has not been made available to the general public and which could affect the rights or interests of the Government or of a non Government organization or person. Such information includes information about Peace Corps operations or administration, and personnel which could influence someone's dealing with Peace Corps.

(d) This section is not intended to discourage the disclosure through proper channels of information which has been or should be made public, or which is by law to be made available to the public. Also, employees are encouraged to teach, lecture, and write, provided they do so in accordance with the provisions of this section and §§ 307.735-301 and 307.735.306.

### § 307.735-310 Speeches and participation in conferences.

(a) *Fees and expenses.* (1) Although an employee may not accept a fee for his or her own use or benefit for making a speech, delivering a lecture, or participating in a discussion if the subject is Peace Corps or Peace Corps programs or if such services are part of the employee's official Peace Corps duties, the employee may suggest that the amount otherwise payable as a fee or honorarium be contributed to Peace Corps under the authority of section 10(a)(4) of the Peace Corps Act.

(2) When a meeting, discussion, etc., to which paragraph (a)(1) of this section refers takes place at a substantial distance from the employee's home, he or she may accept reimbursement for the actual cost of transportation and necessary subsistence, or expenses, but in no case shall he or she receive any amount for personal benefit. Such reimbursements shall be reported by the employee to his or her immediate supervisors.

(3) An employee may accept fees for speeches, etc. dealing with subjects other than Peace Corps or Peace Corps programs when no official funds have been used in connection with his or her appearance and such activities do not interfere with the efficient performance of his or her duties.

(4) In order to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest, whether or not a fee is offered should not be determinative of whether an employee makes a speech or participates in a discussion if the subject is Peace Corps or its programs, or if such services are part of the employee's official duties.

(b) *Racial segregation.* No employee may participate for Peace Corps in conferences or speak for Peace Corps before audiences where any racial group has been segregated or excluded from the meeting, from any of the facilities or conferences, or from membership in the organization sponsoring the conference or meeting.

(1) When a request for Peace Corps speakers or participation is received under circumstances where segregation may be practiced, the Director of Public Affairs shall make specific inquiry as to the practices of the organization before the request is filled.

(2) If the inviting organization shows a willingness to modify its practices, Peace Corps will cooperate in such efforts.

(3) Exceptions to this paragraph may be made only by the Director, Peace Corps and in his or her discretion.

**§ 307.735-311 Partisan political activity.**

(a) *Prohibited activities.* No employee may:

(1) Use his or her official authority or influence for the purpose of interfering

with an election or affecting the result thereof; or

(2) Take any active part in partisan political management or in political campaigns, except as may be provided by or pursuant to statute, 5 U.S.C. 7324.

(b) *Intermittent employees.* Persons employed on an irregular or occasional basis are subject to paragraph (a) of this section only while in active duty status and for the 24 hours of any day of actual employment.

(c) *Excepted activities.* Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to:

(1) Nonpartisan campaigns and elections in which none of the candidates is to be nominated by or elected as representing a national or State political party, such as most school board elections; or

(2) Political activities connected with questions of public interest which are not specifically identified with national or State political parties, such as constitutional amendments, referenda, and the like (5 U.S.C. 7326).

(d) *Excepted communities.* Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to employees who are residents of certain communities. These communities, which have been designated by the Office of Personnel Policy and Operations (5 CFR 733.301), consist of a number of communities in suburban Washington, DC, and a few communities elsewhere in which a majority of the voters are Government employees. Employees who are residents of the designated communities may be candidates for, or campaign for others who are candidates for, local office if they or the candidates for whom they are campaigning are running as independent candidates. An employee may hold local office only in accordance with §§ 307.735-301 through 307.735-306 relating to outside employment and associations.

(e) Special Government employees are subject to the statute for the 24 hours of each day or which they do any work for the Government.

(f) While regular employees may explain and support governmental programs that have been enacted into law, in exercising their official responsibilities they should not publicly support or oppose pending legislation, except in testimony required by the Congress.